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PEPS SMITH MARGARET (SEN.)

Rusk Denies CIA Shaping Foreign Policy

By the Associated Press

Secretary of State Dean Rusk denied today that the Central Intelligence Agency—sometimes termed the government's chief spy agency—has directed foreign policy.

"I have not known of an instance where the CIA has tried to usurp policy since I've been secretary of state," Rusk told the Senate Preparedness subcommittee at an open hearing.

It was Rusk's second session before the group, some members of which have contended that the number of U.S. defense treaties have left the country overextended. Rusk has said this is not true.

Questions about the CIA's role in foreign policy were raised by Sen. Margaret Chase Smith, R-Maine, a subcommittee member.

She said there had been much criticism that the CIA had invaded formulation of foreign policy. She noted the recent futile effort of the Foreign Relations Committee to acquire a role in the congressional supervision of the CIA.

"Are these charges true?" she asked Rusk.

"Not to my knowledge," Rusk replied. "I think I would certainly know."

In addition to his cabinet post, Rusk is a key member of the National Security Council.

"There is no question that the CIA is operating under policy direction," Rusk said.